

on Terror. His leadership is commendable, and people from both sides of the aisle look up to him and appreciate the work he does on his committees and his commitment to the veterans who serve this Nation.

So I thank the distinguished Senator from Kansas for his ongoing commitment, and it is with appreciation and admiration and respect I follow his speech to thank him for the commitment and the comments about what happened in Afghanistan because just this very weekend, on Saturday, the Governor of Wyoming and I stood with over 1,000 people in the cold in Wyoming as we honored the life of Rylee McCollum, who was one of those 13 who was killed in Kabul at the airport on that fateful day in Afghanistan, merely 2 months ago. And with us also was Rylee's wife GiGi and the baby that was born after Rylee had been killed—the baby who will never know her father, who will always know his story, and will always know that he was an American hero.

#### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose what the Democrats are trying to do with their reckless tax-and-spending spree. Right now, prices are rising all across America. The price of gas has gone up by nearly \$1 since the day Joe Biden took the oath of office. One in five families has had to cut down on their spending, their other spending to pay for energy this year, and it is going to get worse this winter.

In total, the typical American family is paying about \$175 more every month, month after month, because of inflation. And the front page story of the New York Times today talked about the upcoming Thanksgiving as the most expensive Thanksgiving dinner of all, and they called it a wallop to the wallet. That is the front page of the New York Times.

I would say, when you see that kind of a story, you know that inflation is here, and it looks like it is here to stay. And it is connected directly to the policies of this President, this administration, and the Democrats in Congress who are trying to make it worse with this tax-and-spending spree. Democrats ought to be working with Republicans to reduce inflation and to cut the spending, but that is not what is happening. No, we see just the opposite.

The Democrats are completely focused on the most expensive spending bill in American history. Right now, the cost is at least \$3.5 trillion. With interest payments, the pricetag rises to \$4.2 trillion. The bill is 2,500 pages in length. You do the math. That is \$1,400,000,000 for each and every page. You divide the cost of the bill by the number of people in America, it is over \$10,000 for every man, woman, and child.

The amount that is being proposed to spend is larger than the entire economy of Japan, which is the third larg-

est economy in the world. And the bill is a towering list of radical liberal priorities: permanent welfare programs, free money for electric vehicle owners, earmarks for New York City and San Francisco, including NANCY PELOSI's special park for the privileged.

Now Democrats are playing a shell game, trying to hide from the American people how they are going to pay for this whole thing. Well, they continue to try to hide the ball. Is it more taxes? Is it more debt? Is it some of both? Let's be clear: No matter which one they decide to do, prices for the American consumer is going to continue to go up. No matter which one they choose, the American people are going to end up paying one way or the other.

So, last week, the President went to Pennsylvania and said he didn't want to talk about the cost of the bill. He said: We shouldn't talk about the numbers. We shouldn't even talk about the numbers.

Now, I can understand why President Biden doesn't want to talk about the numbers because the American people are getting sticker shock. But people all around this country, at the kitchen table, when they sit down and try to figure out how much money they have and what kind of bills are coming in and see the price of food going up and the price of fuel going up and the price of gasoline going up and the price of one thing after another and housing going up—people at the kitchen table are talking about the numbers.

President Biden would rather tell all of us that the bill costs zero dollars. His Press Secretary, his Chief of Staff, and NANCY PELOSI have all repeated the same big lie. They say the largest spending bill in history costs zero dollars. This isn't just false; it is absurd. If it costs zero dollars, why are they having such a hard time trying to get it passed? Answer that.

The American people aren't falling for this. The American people know. They know that when Democrats spend more, they pay more, one way or the other.

So why do Democrats keep repeating the big lie? Because they know that people don't want a big spending bill. They are against it.

Tax revenues are already at record highs in this country. Our problem isn't that we are taxed too little; it is that we spend too much. Yet Democrats' spending bill contains more than 40 new tax increases. If these taxes become law, everyone will have to pay one way or the other. They will pay more in taxes. They will suffer with lower wages, in terms of spending capacity, and pay higher prices.

According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, two-thirds of the taxes Democrats are proposing for businesses would be paid by the middle class. Now, that is not what the President wants you to believe—paid by the middle class, no question about it.

Democrats know the American people don't want higher taxes. A Gallup

poll showed recently fewer than one in five Americans wants more government if it is paid for by tax increases. The American people don't want more spending, which they know we can't, as a nation, afford with the kind of debt we have.

That is why Democrats, each and every one, seem to be trying to hide the cost of the bill through accounting gimmicks. The gimmicks are so blatant even their own Democrat experts are telling them to stop it.

President Obama's "auto czar," Steve Rattner, a major critic of these accounting tactics and tricks, he actually wrote an editorial in the New York Times about it. He said:

[W]ith worrisome inflation signs evident, we certainly don't need any more stimulus.

Democrats are trying to find new ways to take more money from the American people. They are proposing to supersize the IRS, and the IRS is already the least accountable and most powerful Agency in the entire government.

Right now, the annual IRS budget is about \$13 billion. Democrats want another \$80 billion to hire an army of IRS agents to rifle through the bank records of the American people. Even President Obama's IRS Commissioner is against a budget that big.

This proposal just shows how desperate Democrats are to get every last penny they can so they can spend it. For weeks, Democrats said they wanted to force banks to tell the IRS about any account with \$600 in deposits or withdrawals. Well, the American people found out, and they were outraged. I received more calls and more letters on this single topic than on any other topic during the entire years I have been in the U.S. Senate. But yet Democrats defended the plan for weeks, including Janet Yellen, the Treasury Secretary, on national television.

It has been fascinating to watch her argue back and forth with Larry Summers, a former economic adviser to both Bill Clinton, who was Secretary of the Treasury for him, as well as to Barack Obama.

Well, now Democrats finally realize how angry the American people are at this Big Brother proposal.

So what is their solution? More gimmicks, more sleight of hand. Now Janet Yellen says the policy will only apply to accounts with total transactions of more than \$10,000 over the course of a year.

Well, that new proposal and that gimmick would still affect nearly every American in this country who has a bank account. It is essentially the same proposal. The American people aren't buying it.

So the Democrats are now on the horns of a dilemma. Is it more taxes? Is it more debt? Is it both? All three options mean more inflation hitting families across America and hitting things like the front page of the New York Times, where they talk about it as a wallop to the wallet.

The last thing the American people need right now are higher taxes, more debt, and higher prices. Yet this is all that today's Democrat Party has to offer.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON COBB NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cobb nomination?

Mr. MURPHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 432 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

#### NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

#### NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Feinstein	Rounds
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The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON WILLIAMS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Williams nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 433 Ex.]

#### YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Lujan	Tillis
Coons	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	
Grassley		

#### NAYS—38

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Manchin	Rounds
Feinstein	Marshall	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON GILES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Giles nomination?

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 434 Ex.]

#### YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blunt	Hirono	Romney
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Lee	Tester
Cassidy	Lujan	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Toomey
Coons	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young
Grassley	Paul	

#### NAYS—27

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Daines	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	Moran	Tuberville

#### NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	Manchin	Sinema
Feinstein	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The yeas are 68, the nays are 27.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BERTON J. MCQUEEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week, more than 76 years after he was killed in the Second World War, Army Private First Class Berton J. McQueen was returned home to Jackson County, KY. His family reburied him with full military honors outside the Wind Cave Baptist Church in McKee, ending a seven-decade journey from Kentucky, to Italy, to France, and finally back home again. Today, I